

**Safe Community Task Force**  
**Neighborhood Engagement / Social Capital Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Friday, November 20, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Jonathan Cheatum, Pat Kelley, Bob Krayner, Dan Schrobiligen, Lynn Sutton, Sr. Inez Turnmeyer, Dirk Voetberg, Bob Wild and Suzie Wright

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairperson Dirk Voetberg called the first meeting of this subcommittee to order at 7:35 p.m. Pat Kelly hosted the meeting at her residence 1192 Locust St.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of Neighborhood Engagement / Social Capital Subcommittee involves several issues: identification of neighborhood leaders; correction of any misperception that may exist, including young people; and fostering understanding of new and existing cultures.

**Conducting the Survey:**

To begin the process the subcommittee decided to conduct a survey of the Washington Neighborhood and extend to areas north (North End and Point Neighborhoods). Several methods of conducting the survey were discussed; namely, (1) by mail, (2) by making door to door house contacts, and (3) gathering the information through a series of neighborhood meetings. The subcommittee felt that the most effective method would be to do the house contacts, and to enlist students from the colleges of Loras, UD and Clarke to conduct the survey. Due to the college's holiday schedule, it was felt that the survey would not be conducted before February. However, it was felt that the colleges should be contacted now – Dirk Voetberg will contact Clarke, Lynn Sutton will contact UD (BSU), and Suzie Wright will contact Loras.

**Developing the Questionnaire:**

Once the decision on the method of conducting the survey was reached, considerable discussion surrounded the development of the questionnaire as to the type of questions - open-ended or more of a specific nature.

A general consensus was reached to include the following questions in the questionnaire:

- How long have you lived in the neighborhood?
- Do you rent or own your own home?
- What do you like about the neighborhood?
- What would you like to see done to enhance the neighborhood?
- What would you do to improve your neighborhood - will you volunteer your services?

Suzie Wright volunteered to layout the format of the survey questionnaire.

The survey form will also include space for entering the name, address, phone and email addresses of the respondents. Age, race and gender will not be asked of the respondent of the survey, but the surveyor will note and provide this information to the subcommittee for their purposes only.

The subcommittee felt that a meeting with the chairs or representatives of the neighborhoods would be most beneficial for input, etc.

The subcommittee agreed that a sampling of the questionnaire should be conducted in several blocks of the neighborhood by the subcommittee members to test the validity of the questions before embarking on the survey. This will provide an opportunity to make any necessary changes. The sampling will be conducted on **Saturday, January 16, 2010.**

In February the subcommittee will provide instructions and work with the students in preparation of conducting the survey.

In March or April a general meeting of the participating neighborhoods will be set-up to give the results of the survey to the respondents.

Recommendations from the results of the survey will be presented to the Safe Community Task Force.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Mark Community Center.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kraye,  
Secretary